Sturgis shot at Kennedy, report says

New York News 11/2/77
Dallas Morning News

NEW YORK — Convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis was held in [redacted] rge that he attempted to influence the testimony of ex-spy Marita Lorenz, who allegedly told federal investigators after his arrest [redacted] John Kennedy [redacted] Dallas.

Sources revealed that Lorenz broke down in an intense cross-examination

Tangled connection between Lorenz and Sturgis interests investigators. Story on Page 4-A

by Robert Blakey, the general counsel to the House Assassination Committee, and tearfully maintained that she had "documentary and photographic" evidence to prove that Sturgis shot at Kennedy.

The sources said her testimony does not alter the fact that Kennedy was

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Ex-spy tells of Dallas trip with killer squad

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shot by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Dallas Book Depository, but that it did fit in with conspiracy theories that maintain there was more than one person firing at Kennedy as he rode through Dallas in a motorcade.

Blakey flew into New York Tuesday after Sturgis was arrested Monday near Lorenz' apartement on E. 88th St and charged with harassment and attempted coercion.

Sources said Blakey interviewed the ex-spy in a small room at Manhattan Criminal Court.

(The Associated Press reported that Blakey declined to confirm or deny that committee staffers have been told that Sturgis shot at President Kennedy. Blakey denied the report that he personally had heard that account Tuesday from ex-spy Marita Lorenz. But earlier, when asked if she had made the allegation to committee investigators, Blakey replied: "No comment."

(His only other comment was that if investigators had such a story, they would have to check it out. Blakey said "I've never met her in my life" and said he was not in New York City Tuesday.)

At Sturgis' hearing before Judge Milton Samorodin, defense attorney Ron Golfarb argued that Sturgis should be set free because he has "never missed an appointment" during his many court appearances and meetings with federal probers. He said Sturgis was here on business and that he was a lecturer.

Another defense attorney, Henry Rothblatt, charged that the accusations against Sturgis resulted from "absurd charges by a psychotic woman."

He argued that Lorenz had sent Sturgis the money to come here from Miami and then "set him up" by offering to meet him at her apartment.

The incident on Monday also included the arrest of Lorenz' 15-year-old daughter, Monica Mercedes Perez Jimenez, who was picked up with a loaded pistol in her pocket. She allegedly bought the pistol to protect her mother from Sturgis, but she was arrested before he arrived.

Lorenz met Sturgis in 1959 while she was living in Havana with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Sturgis, then known as Frank Fiorini, was an officer in Castro's revolutionary army and a contact agent for the CIA.

He recruited Lorenz to spy on Castro. Later, when both Lorenz and Sturgis left Cuba, he allegedly sent her back on two CIA missions — the first to steal documents and the second to assassinate Castro.

Six weeks ago, Lorenz told the New York News that she accompanied Sturgis, Oswald and four Cubans on a car trip from Miami to Dallas a few days before President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas.

She said they were all members of a CIA-approved "assassination squad" known as Operation 40.

Investigators Gaeton Fonzi and Al Gonzalez of the House Assassinations Committee interviewed Miss Lorenz on Saturday, when she reportedly repeated the same story she told the News.

When the investigators left, Lorenz allegedly received a phone call advising her that Sturgis was coming to New York, and subsequent callers convinced here that Sturgis would try to make her change her story.

It was after this that her daughter bought the gun and told the mother: "Don't worry, I'll protect you."